

Eames Covered Bridge
Henderson County
Near Oquawka, Illinois

HABS Ill. 243

HABS

ILL,

36-OQUAW,

2.

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. Ill.I.

Historic American Buildings Survey
Earl H. Reed, District Officer
435 North Michigan Ave., Chicago

EAMES COVERED BRIDGE
HENDERSON COUNTY
NEAR OQUAWKA, ILLINOIS

HABS
ILL,
36 OQUAWKA
2.

DISTRICT NO. ILL. 1.
NORTHERN ILLINOIS

EARL H. REED
District Officer

Project No. Ill. 243

Ralph F. Gross

SOURCE

Rosalie Wells
Covered
Bridges
in America
p. 104

Two miles south of Oquawka on State highway 94 A, is this covered wooden bridge. The modern concrete road passes about two hundred yards west of the old bridge, and crosses the river on a new structure without disturbing the old one.

It was erected in 1861, according to an old resident, who recalls marching across this unfinished bridge while on his way to the Civil War. However, Miss Wells in her writing about this bridge, states that it was built about 1851. She does not give her source of information. The later date seems to be more plausible on the basis of internal evidence. The wholesale use of blackwalnut, a characteristic feature of early building in this part of the country, had caused a shortage of this wood. Here oak and pine are used and this fact indicates the later date. The span of 104 feet is carried by means of a Howe truss, with a segmental arch. The segmental arch built up of three sections spliced together, was placed along the side of the truss and bolted to the members. The arch seems to be a corollary feature rather than an integral part of the truss.

Mr. Fullerton

The bridge was repaired in 1929 after a cyclone had torn off most of the roof and some of the siding in 1924, and its preservation is due to the active effort of one of the county commissioners, Mr. L.W. Curtiss.

It is interesting to note that there are still left three covered wooden bridges in Warren and Henderson Counties; the bridge at Jack's Mill, the Eames Bridge and the bridge at Olmstead's Mill. In each of these there is a different system of construction.

History of
Mercer and
Henderson
Counties
1882 p.1000

The name Eames is derived apparently,
from Thadeus Eames who came from Massachu-
setts to this county in 1835, who was a
successful farmer and was still living in
1882.

By Ralph F. Gross

Approved Eames is used